

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY SAMPLING INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Santa Rosa--The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board recently made additional water quality information readily available on its web site. The Regional Board created a new Web link, "Bacterial Water Quality Sampling," that will provide the public with access to bacterial water quality data in local rivers.

"Sharing information on water quality with the public is important in fostering the exchange of ideas for solving water quality problems," said Susan A. Warner, Executive Officer of the Regional Board.

Through the link, readers can find historic and current bacterial data as well as explanations of the sampling process. During the summer sampling season, when recreational water use is at its highest, bacterial data will be updated at least weekly. The sampling program focuses on coliform bacteria tests, the results of which are used as an indicator of potential contamination by disease-causing bacteria. The Web page provides graphs and spreadsheets, which show sampling results as compared to these standards and guidelines.

The Web page, <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/sampling/sampling.html>, features data taken at five beaches on the Russian River and several locations on Santa Rosa Creek. The Regional Board expects that additional streams and lakes will be added in the next few years as staff investigates sources of bacteria. "The Regional Board will be working to eliminate any controllable discharges of pathogens to the Russian River," Warner said.

Regional Board and Sonoma County staff collect data on the bacterial water quality in the Russian River from Memorial Day through Labor Day at beaches in the Monte Rio, Guerneville, and Healdsburg areas. Santa Rosa Creek sampling will also be conducted regularly (by the City of Santa Rosa) at three locations near the Prince Memorial Greenway, where a total of 29 locations were sampled last season as part of a preliminary study.

For further information, call John Short at (707) 576-2065.

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